REMARKS

Claims 1, 10 and 11 have been amended. No new claims have been added. Accordingly, claims 1-11 are currently pending in the above application.

Priority

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgment of the claims for priority and safe receipt of the priority document.

35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Lin. The rejections are traversed as follows.

The present invention is directed to an automatic analysis apparatus having a plurality of measurement channels, a control unit, and a display unit, as recited in the claims. The control unit produces calibration information for each of the plurality of measurement channels, first quality control information for each of the plurality of measurement channels, and second quality control information defining quality for the overall automatic analysis apparatus. A calibration information display unit simultaneously shows calibration information and the first and second quality control information on a screen, as shown in Fig. 2.

Prior to the measurement of a plurality of samples for a given analysis item by a plurality of measurement channels, calibration is individually, or separately, carried out for each measurement channel. After calibration, a quality control sample is measured by each of the channels. Upon measurement of the control sample, there is the possibility that different results are obtained at different channels. For example, as shown in Fig. 2, channels 13-1 and 13-2 indicate different measurement values 10.1 and 9.0, respectively, upon measurement of the same control sample #1, which has a true value of 10.0. The quality control information for each channel is displayed on the screen in addition to calibration information of the respective measurement channels. Therefore, a user or operator can check the measurement data of the quality control as well as the calibration data. As a result, the user can quickly and easily become aware of the measurement quality of the automatic analysis apparatus with respect to each channel and can determine whether or not any of the channels require maintenance.

None of the cited references disclose this feature of the present invention. For example, Lin discloses an inter-laboratory performance monitoring system for producing quality control evaluation information for each instrument in a large

group of instruments making up a peer group which periodically (such as daily) run a set of control samples from a common lot of control materials (see Abstract). The control data is reported electronically to a central station which selects a "golden peer group" of instruments which meet certain minimum operating criteria (see Abstract). Fig. 2 of Lin shows statistical data of a given instrument with respect to its peers. However, Fig. 2 of Lin does not show calibration data. As such, Lin does not disclose or suggest that calibration information and first quality control information for each measurement channel is produced and displayed on a screen simultaneously. Since this calibration data of the given instrument is not displayed, the user or operator cannot determine whether or not maintenance of the given instrument is necessary.

EP 0871034 A2 discloses an automatic analyzer and support system therefor that is directed to managing intervals for execution of calibration. This reference shows an example of a display screen in Fig. 22. However, as with Lin, Fig. 22 does not show measured calibration data or quality control data for each of the instruments. Instead, when a preset button 2201 is touched by an operator, the reference sample name necessary for execution of calibration of a calibration item is displayed and a control sample name necessary for

execution of accuracy management is also displayed. As such, this reference also fails to disclose or suggest that calibration information and first quality control information for each measurement channel is produced and displayed on a screen simultaneously as in the present invention.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants contend that the above-identified application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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